

the Government contributed towards their support. After 1870 larger appropriations were made, and the contract system came into vogue. Encouraged by the Indian Department's friendly attitude, the Church erected a large number of schools, and in this way invested about \$1,500,000, which vast outlay will now be of no benefit, either to the Indians or the Church, unless a reasonable portion of the support which the Government has withdrawn is supplied by Catholic generosity.

It should be noted that schools were not needlessly multiplied. According to the latest report there are in this country 272,023 Indians, of which number more than 100,000 are Catholics.

At one time there were 3,500 Indian children in Catholic schools, and at no time have there been accommodations for more than 4,000.

To adequately provide for the Christian education of children in the Catholic Indian population of 100,000 souls, we should be able to offer school accommodations for at least 10,000 children, and hence, instead of being compelled to diminish our annual enrollment, we should, in reality, endeavor to make provisions to increase it. This, of course, will be impossible until the present crisis shall have passed.

We beg a careful reading and consideration of the subjoined reasons, which show why this work commends itself to the charity of every Catholic in the land.

A MATTER OF JUSTICE.

The Indian was the first occupant and owner of American soil; he was despoiled of it by methods which, according to many of our leading representative citizens, were manifestly unjust. Hence white people, who now possess the land, derive from it the comforts of life and live upon it in security and prosperity, should cheerfully and generously contribute, at least, to the *spiritual* welfare of the original proprietor.